

Editorial...

New Ownership - New Scrutiny at Pilgrim

Last week's announcement by Boston Edison that Pilgrim has been sold to Entergy Corp. of Louisiana serves as cause to reaffirm our commitment to inform the public about potential health, safety and environmental dangers at our aging nuclear neighbor to the south.

Since the mid-80's the pages of the *Duxbury Clipper* have given voice to responsible citizens and legislators who with a growing sense of alarm, have put the spotlight on the performance record of Boston Edison's Pilgrim I plant.

The sale, a relatively "unscheduled event" as far as the public was concerned, barely registered a blip on the news and legislative front, but true to course, Citizens Urging Responsible Energy (CURE) spokesmen Mary Ott and Dr. Donald Muirhead have a lot to say on the change of ownership subject in their guest commentary this week. (See Page 5)

Historically, the plant has been the subject of debate and concern over "accidents" and other safety concerns which have led to shutdowns for as long as 32 months.

Public hearings spurred demands by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that Edison resolve safety and management issues that in the mid 80's led to its ranking Pilgrim as one of the worst managed nuclear generating facilities in the United States.

Since then, Edison has made strides in cleaning up Pilgrim's dismal record of inadequacy but never to the satisfaction of many who view the plant as a perennial "white elephant".

Also of great concern is the ever increasing spent fuel pool of radioactive waste on the premises which could pose danger to the public health, safety and welfare of citizens.

The incidents at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl are still vivid reminders of the risks and potential consequences of managing operations at a nuclear facility.

As we prepare for the management transition at Pilgrim, we look to our current legislators and public officials for the same scrutiny we have come to expect.

The safety of our citizens demands we send a unified message to the new owners that "we'll be watching you".